

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-28-00

April 14, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of section 1014.6.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: How is possible to construct stone stairs in accordance with the dimensional uniformity requirements of the code, given the irregularities in the material (stone) itself?

Answer: The intent of the code is that the gait that one establishes while traversing a set of stairs is uniform to within $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch between adjacent treads or adjacent risers and to within $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch between the largest and smallest riser and the largest and smallest tread. To determine if steps made out of an irregular material such as stone are code-compliant, one would measure and compare the planes of the average height of each riser and the average depth of each tread. The code also recognizes that there are construction tolerances for each individual type of material. The more irregular the material, the greater the tolerance, as long as the resulting stair meets the intent of the code.